



THE BOOK  
about  
SOPHIE,

GRANDMA LEAH'S  
CAT

for: JAKOB, age 5 JASPER, age 4  
ANNA-LAURA, age 2½, and ???





# Sophie Wakes Up!

It is early. Very early! It is still dark.

Sophie is in her cat-bed. The bed is on the kitchen table. It is soft and cozy. It is white inside and maroon outside. The bed is small.

Grandma puts her in the bed every night and gives her a kiss and says, "Goodnight".

When Sophie wakes up, she listens for sounds from Grandma's bedroom.

She is happy when she hears Grandma come down the stairs and open the door!

Sophie is hungry and a little lonely. "Meow, meow, meow!", she says.

Grandma says, "Hello, Sophie!"

Grandma picks her up and pets her.

Sometimes Sophie licks Grandma's toes, after she jumps down from her bed.





Blue jay



Ruby-throated hummingbird



Cardinal



Field sparrow





## Sophie and the Porch

Sophie LOVES to go outside on the porch! In this picture she is sitting on a doormat by the dining room door. She is looking at Grandma, and Grandma is looking at her.

Her eyes are glowing because it is still a little dark.

Sophie loves the porch when it is summer, autumn, spring — and even in winter when it is cold and snowy.

If it is very, very cold outside, Sophie sometimes shakes her paws when they are cold or wet.

Sophie listens to the birds in the garden. The birds twitter, flitter and sing.

Sophie cannot go into the garden. But she is happy to be on the porch!







## Sophie Wants Breakfast.

Sophie is hungry. She loves to eat! "Meow, meow", she cries, I am so hungry!

She does not eat at the table. She does not eat with a fork and spoon, or a knife.

She eats by the basement stairs. She has "kibble", which is a kind of cereal. It is dry and has no milk on it. She also drinks a lot of water.

In the evening at dinnertime she also eats a little tuna-fish, or sometimes a little chicken, or lox. This is a big treat for her!

Sometimes she has a small dish of milk or yogurt. She eats with her tongue and teeth.

Sophie is a messy eater.

Kibble is a special cereal just for cats. It is very nutritious.

Sometimes I rattle her bowl, so she thinks I have put more food in it.







# Sophie's Toilet

Because Sophie is a cat and not a person, her toilet is called a litter box. It is big enough for her to climb into. It is in the basement, down, down, down the basement stairs.

A Litterbox is like a big dishpan. It is filled by Grandma with litter—a kind of sand or gravel. Grandma buys it at the grocery store. Grandma scoops out the balls of wet urine and the feces everyday.

Cats are born knowing how to cover over, or bury, their feces and urine. They use their paws. It's clever!

Cats go to their litter box several times a day and even at night. They learn to use their litter box as kittens and never have to use diapers.

Sophie really loves her litter box. It is her very own! If I had two cats I would have two litter boxes.







## Sophie Looks and Looks

Sophie is a very curious cat.  
Most cats are very curious!

Every morning she climbs on the desk where Grandpa worked. She sits on his printer beside the window. She stares out the window. She looks a long, long time. She is on the 2nd floor.

She sees big and little trees. She sees birds. And yes she sees squirrels. It is morning time.

The trees wave if there is wind. The birds are different colors and they fly up, down, and around. Sometimes the squirrels walk along the telephone lines or leap, or scamper. She may see a red cardinal, a blue jay, a brown sparrow, or a golden finch. Maybe the birds sing. Maybe the dog next door comes out. But she is safe.







## Sophie Relaxes

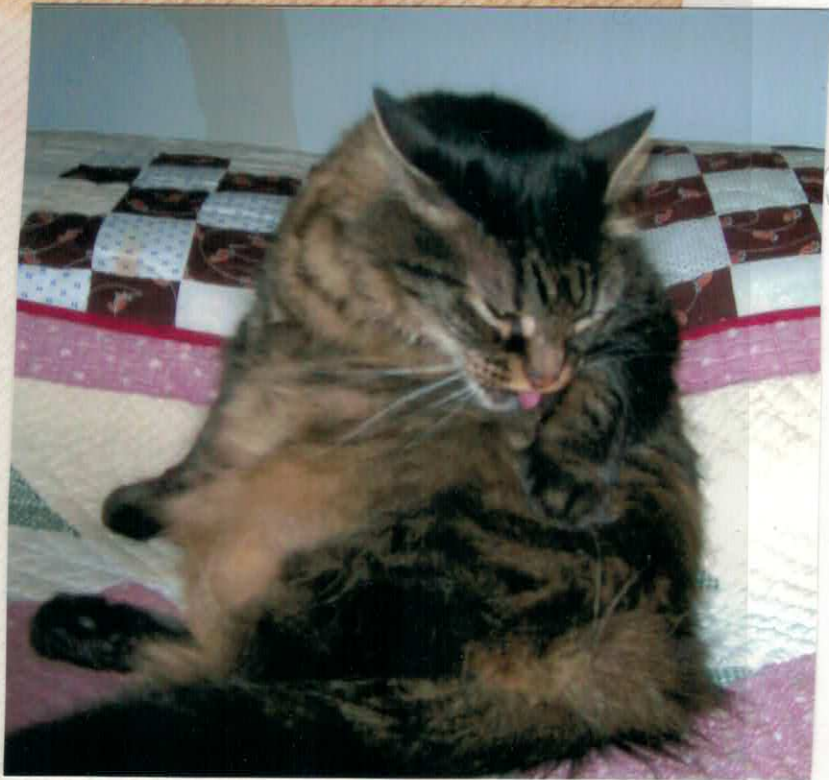
When Sophie finishes her morning looking, she climbs onto Grandma's desk chair to relax... Or she uses the chair at Grandpa's desk by his window.

She does not like to share chairs. So, if she gets to the chair first, Grandma has to stand at her desk or get another chair! However, Grandma, and Grandpa too, did know how to share. They like her company nearby. And she likes to be nearby her family, except for when a vacuum cleaner is on.

Sophie often leaves bits of her fur on the chair seat. Cats shed some of their fur all year, but especially in spring or summer. Then they grow new fur.

Do you ever shed your hair?  
A lot or a little? When?  
Do you grow new hair too?







## Sophie Washes Herself

By the middle of the day Sophie washes herself with her scratchy tongue. She washes her back, her paws, her sides, her rear-end, and uses her wet paw to wash her face, and ears.

It takes a long time because her tongue is small. She does not wash her whole body everyday.

Some parts of her body she cannot even reach. So Grandma brushes her every day.

Sophie has no soap, no wash cloth, and no towel. She cannot take a shower or a swim. But she works hard at cleaning herself. Cats do this by instinct. They groom themselves every day. Just imagine washing yourself with just your tongue!







Sophie Says —

I am exhausted!

But before I take a nap —

I am going to cuddle  
in one of my favorite places  
and look at the world

down

side

up

OOPS!

up

side

down

with my paws hidden  
under a pillow.

~~Grandma~~, I think you look  
funny up-side-down!

Do you recognize me when I  
am up-side-down or only when  
I am right-side-up??







## Sleeping in a Chair

Sophie likes a long long nap.

She likes to sleep in a favorite chair sometimes in Grandma's bedroom. It is by a window.

The chair is often in the sun.

In winter an overhead lamp makes it seem as if the sun were shining.

Sophie looks for sunlight — on rugs, couches, chairs, and even tables.

She likes chairs that have little pillows she can lean against.

Her eyes are a little closed already







## Sleeping On Grandma's Bed

Sophie loves to sleep on Grandma's big bed. It is her favorite place to sleep!

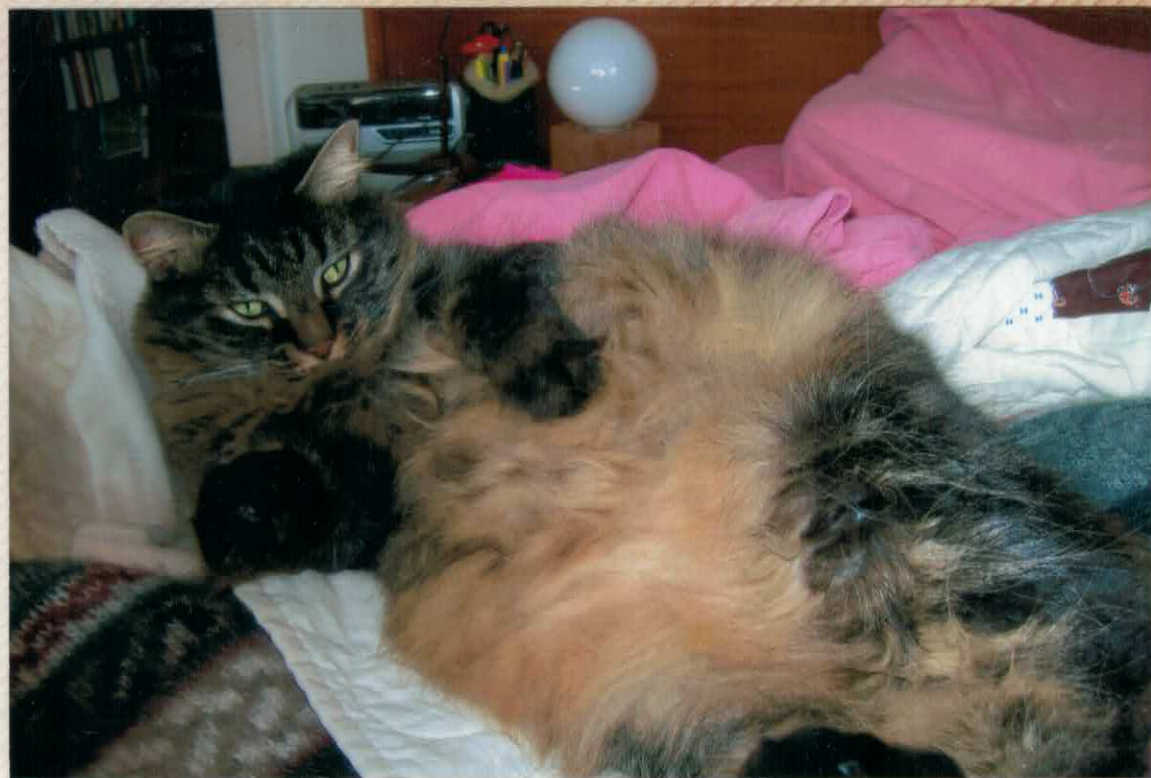
She likes it best when it is not made and the covers and sheets are all rumped up. She likes the little hills and valleys the bedclothes make.

She likes to leap up on the unmade bed before Grandma makes it. It is a kind of race between Sophie and Grandma. Guess who usually wins?

In colder weather the sheets and blankets keep her a little extra warm.

Besides, on a big bed she can really stretch out her body full length.







Very Sleepy Sophie

See how her eyes are half-closed?

See how she stretches out on her back? Her back is mostly black in color and a little striped or patchy. Her paws are black too. And her tail is black and bushy.

But now you can see her tummy. It is pale orange or gold colored. And it is very fluffy, and long.

One of her parents was probably an orange cat. The other was probably a mostly black striped cat.

She only lets people she knows well, and trusts, rub her tummy. As cats go, she is very trusting about tummy rubs.







## More Sleepy Sophie

On Grandma's bed Sophie can stretch herself from head to tail and let her paws be up or down. Or she can twist herself all around.

Sometimes she curls herself into a ball and hides her face with her tail and her paws.

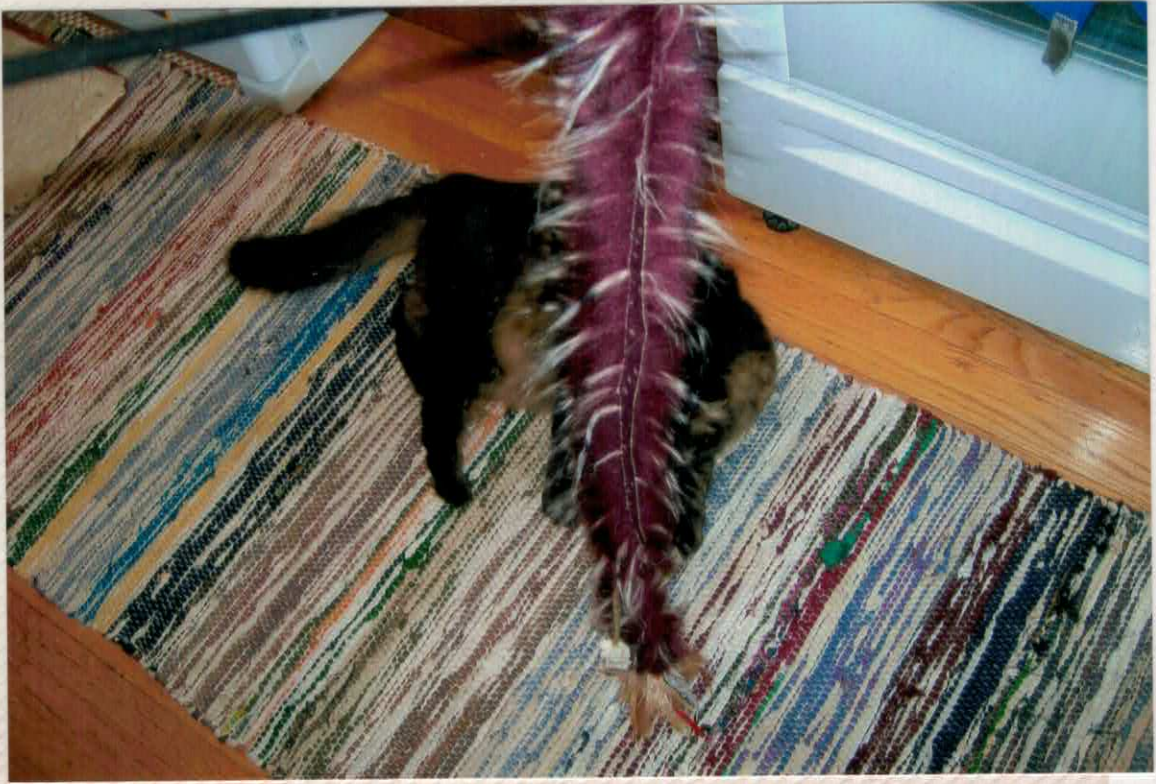
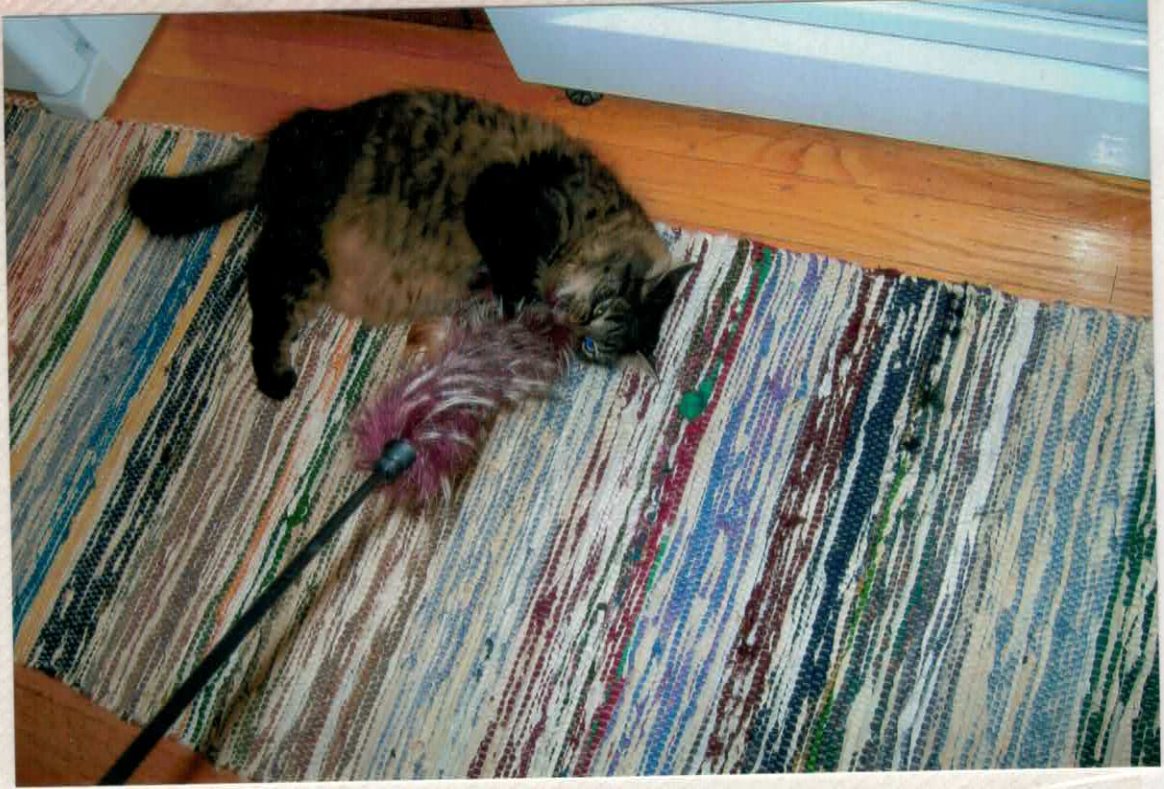
Maybe this makes it extra dark and hides her from noise and people.

But cats have very good hearing, and no matter how curled up into a ball she is, and no matter how deeply she is sleeping — a loud noise, a gentle pat, a familiar voice all wake her up immediately!

Then, like people, she stretches.

Grandma cannot curl herself into a little ball. Can you?







## Sophie At Play

After her long, long daytime nap, Sophie has a snack from her Kibble dish. Then she wants to play.

Especially in the kitchen she has all kinds of cat toys. She especially likes the ones with feathers!

Grandma jiggles some which make Sophie jump, leap, and grab them with one or two paws. Some Squeak. Some are furry.

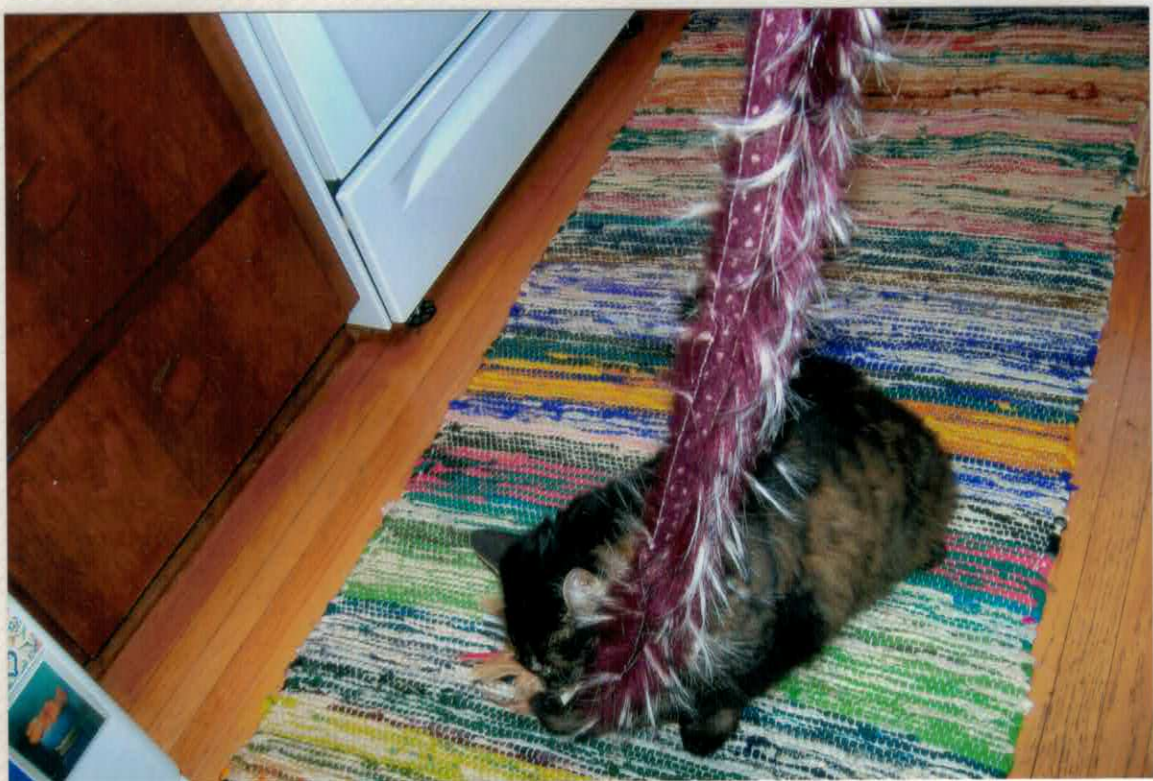
It is good exercise for Sophie and for Grandma too.

Sophie is probably thinking the toy is a bird or a mouse.

She catches the toy, holds on to it, bites it, Kicks it, bats it around with her front paws or her hind legs, and licks it.

Sophie is a licker!







## Toys and Catnip.

Some toys are shaped to look like little animals.

They squeak, or roll, or sparkle. They can look like mice or are fur-covered.

Grandma Leah can buy these toys at a grocery store or a pet store.

I also buy containers of grass seed. After I water it and it grows about one inch, Sophie can lick it and chew it. It is good for her, and she likes it so much I keep it on the table for her to chew all day and even at night. Cats that go outside eat regular grass.

And I buy catnip....







# Cats and Catnip

Catnip is a plant. Cats adore it!  
As soon as they smell it they  
get very happy and very excited.  
And they play hard with anything  
that has catnip in it.

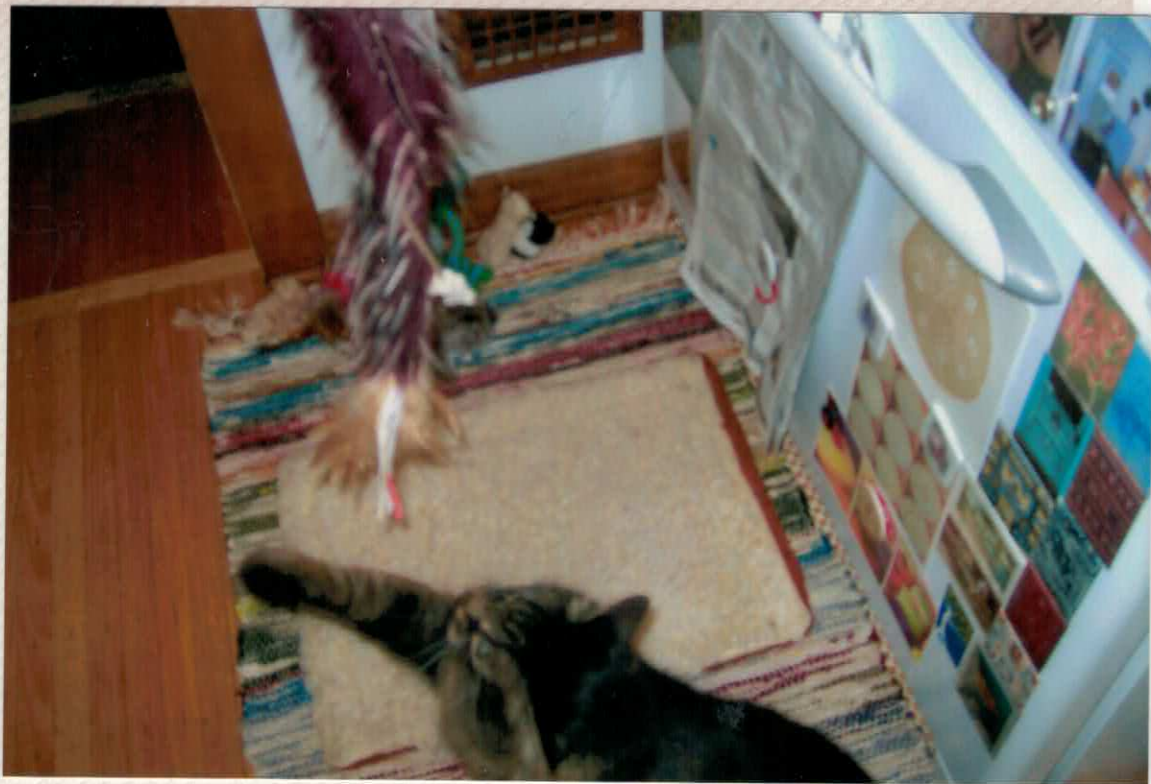
At the pet store Grandma  
buys little fur toys with a  
velcro opening. Into the little  
pocket I pour some dried catnip.  
Then the velcro gets sealed.  
But the smell is so strong  
that Sophie immediately goes  
"ga-ga" over it.

Some cat treats come in a  
little package at the store too.  
I think they must have a little  
catnip in them because  
cats love these treats.

She meows very loudly if  
I open the freezer where I  
keep them. She gobbles them  
from my hand and is so happy  
to have a "treat"!

I guess catnip is an herb.







## Dinner Time

After a while, Sophie gets tired of playing and may walk away from the moving toys and from Grandma Leah.

Maybe she sees and smells that it is dinner time. So she watches Grandma Leah very carefully to see what she is fixing for dinner.

Aha, she can recognize her bowl for tuna when it is being filled. Of course she can smell it too, when a can is being opened with a can-opener, which also has a special sound.

She leaps ahead of Grandma, who is careful not to trip over her. She waits by her eating place.

If Grandma refills her kibble and water dishes, Sophie is never completely sure what to eat first!

Sometimes Grandma gives her bits of leftover chicken, ham, or fish. Wnaw! She loves that!







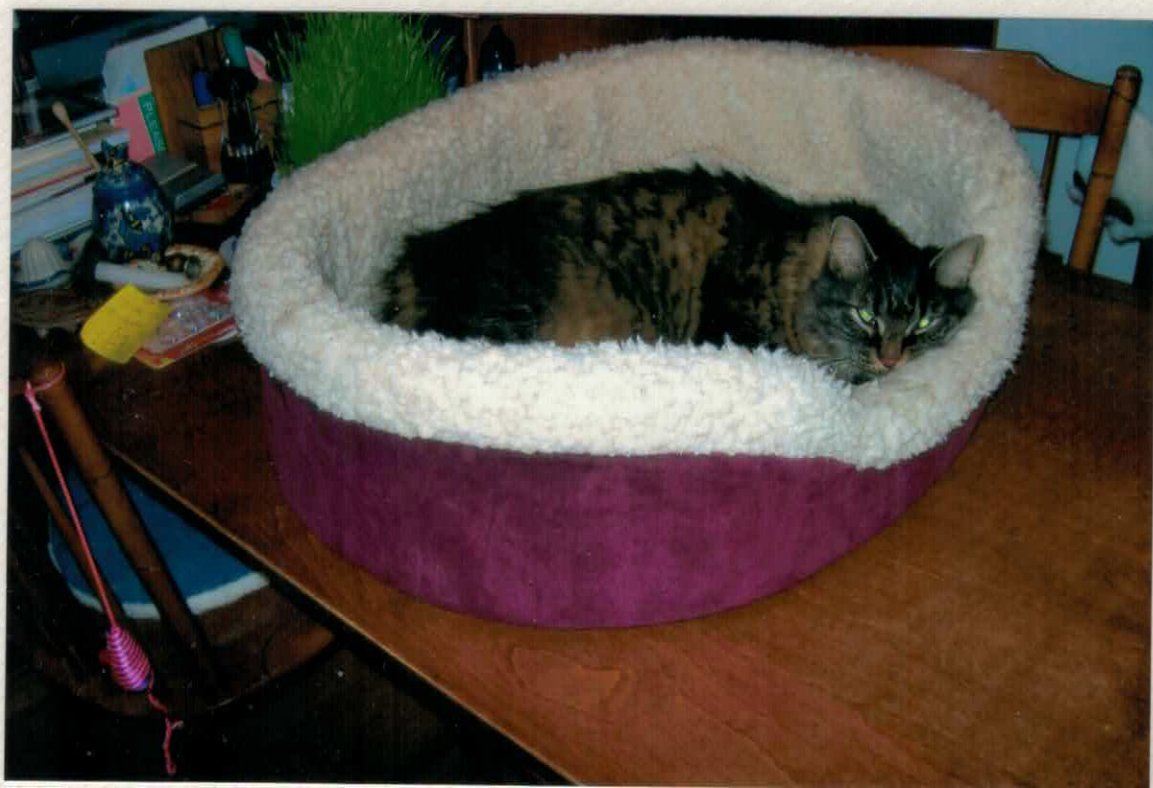
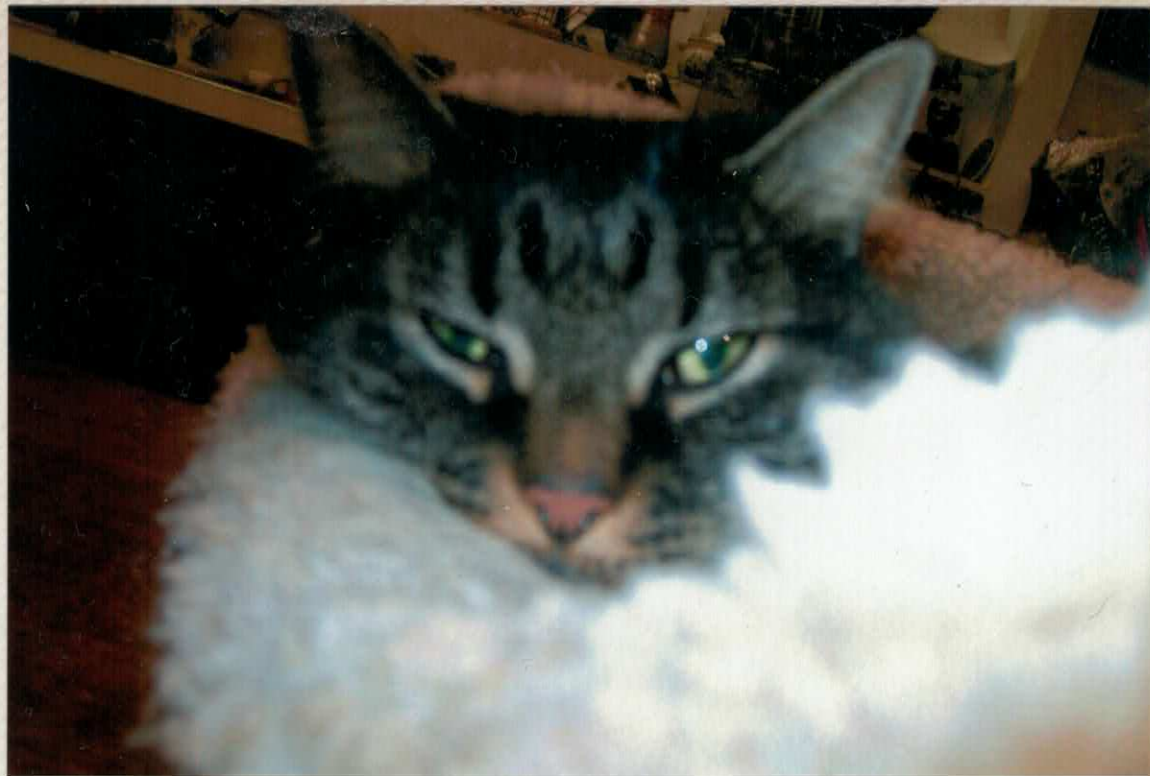
## Bedtime

After Sophie eats, licks her paws, watches T.V. (yes she does watch animals, sound, and movement some,) and maybe goes back out on the porch or to her litterbox, she gets sleepy, again!

So Grandma puts her bed back on the kitchen table and Sophie climbs into it.

At first she kneads along its edge. That means she puts her mouth on the edge fur and pushes her paws back + forth. That's a lot like what baby kittens do when they nurse from their mother's nipples for milk. For a little bit of time before she settles down in her ~~bed~~ like furry bed she remembers being a baby.







## Sleepy Time

- Sophie sometimes hangs her head  
over the side of her basket - ~~bed~~.

Or she tries out one side  
or the other.

She likes it when Grandma  
turns off the lights in the kitchen  
But maybe she likes The night-light.  
It is blue color.

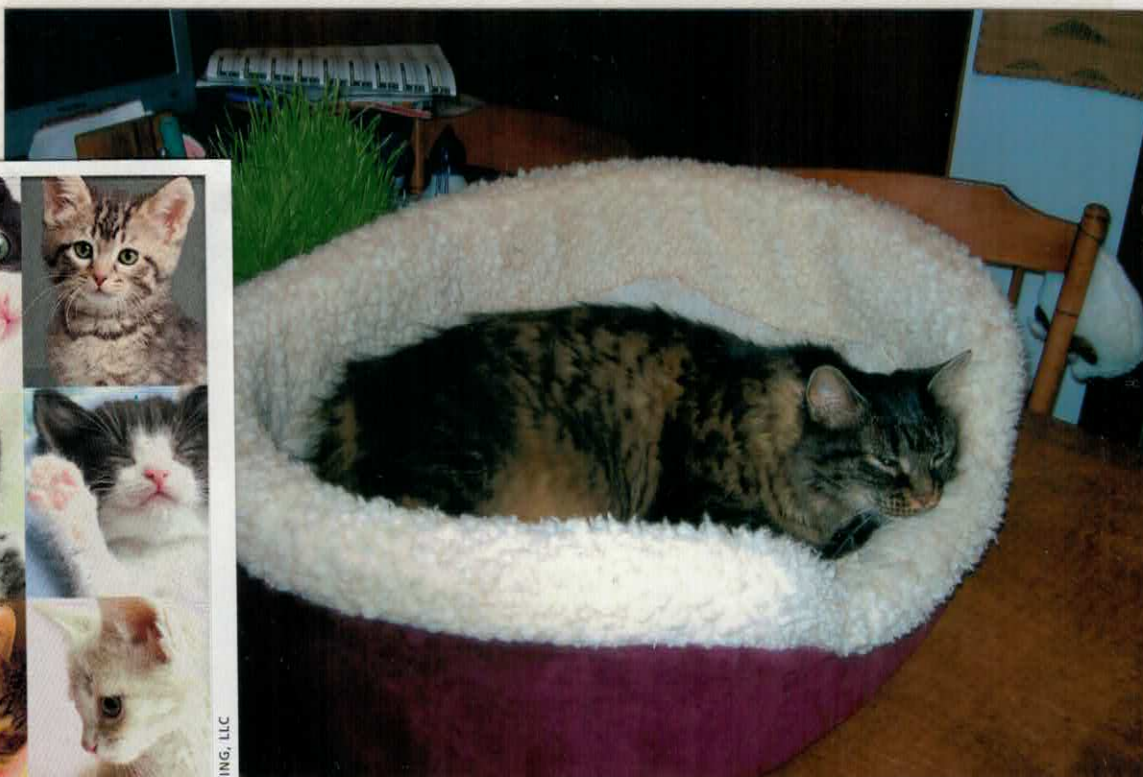
\* Grandma pats Sophie and  
says

Good night  
and

Gives her a kiss  
on her head  
between her ears.

She likes kisses and pats. Me too.





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4 SHEETS/FEUILLES



## All Night?

Sophie probably gets up during the nite for a nibble of food or water.

But she definitely closes her eyes when she sleeps.

Her eyes are green.

But some cats have blue eyes.

Her nose is pink.

Her tongue is too.

Her whiskers are white.

There are many, many different kinds of cats — cats of all colors, long and short hair cats, striped cats, patchy cats, cats with different shaped ears, cats that meow a lot or don't — just like there are many different looking people!

Different countries sometimes have different cats.







## Licking

Sophie loves to lick people she loves. She does more licking than any cat Grandma has ever had! Or known.

Somebody thought I should call her "Miss hickems".

Among all the different kinds of cats in the world, Sophie belongs to the group called the "American long-haired cat".

But she has some other kinds of cats in her family genealogy too. One of those is "angora". The Angora cat has very soft, fuzzy fur and is often grayish

A Persian cat is often white and very very furry with a pug nose.

A Siamese is often black.

A Burmese cat is often brown, very short haired with unusual ears.

All cats lick some.







## Licking Grandpa

Sophie used to love to climb up  
on Grandpa's stomach, walk up  
to his chest, walk closer up to his  
face,

and then

lick his beard

or his forehead

with her

scratchy  
tongue

It felt funny but —

Grandpa liked it for a  
little  
while.

In general she loves to  
nap on people. I wonder  
if she likes the feel of our  
heart beat or stomach gurgling.







## Pictures of Sophie on the Porch

There is a picture of Sophie  
relaxing in a favorite chair  
on the porch.

And here is a picture of her  
looking at the flowers,  
insects, cars, and birds

She doesn't really really  
understand that There are  
four (4) seasons:

winter

spring

summer

fall or autumn

or

why sometimes it is cold and snowy,  
sometimes hot, sometimes rainy.







More Porch pictures

Sophie is probably watching  
birds, squirrels, fish and  
flowers.

## MILLIONS OF CATS



Grandma's favorite  
book about cats  
when she was your  
age.

by, Wanda Gag







## Naps on the Porch

Here Sophie is stretched  
out on the porch picnic table.

She has a very good view of  
things from here.

And sometimes she likes it  
here because it is sunny  
or  
not sunny but shady.

Here are some flowers she  
can see, and smell even.







### THE END

So dear Grandchildren, this is the story of Sophie. She can meow and she can purr (like a tiny motor) when she is content.

She cannot speak English, German, or Icelandic, nor can she go to school to learn to read and write.

Grandma has been to school but she cannot really meow or purr. Yet they understand each other very very well.

Do you have any questions you want to ask me about Sophie or about cats? P.P.P.  
WITH LOVE - GRANDMA LEAH